

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 OPR-02 OMB-01 /063 W

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R 180800Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2472

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGAL: ACTIVITIES OF AZORES INDEPENDENCE

ORGANIZATIONS

1. EMBOFF RECEIVED JULY 11 PORTUGUESE CITIZEN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS FORMER RESIDENT OF CANADA WHO WAS NOW RESIDING IN FARO, ALGARVE AND WAS ACTIVE IN ALGARVE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. SOURCE ALLEGED THAT TWO OTHER INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATIONS IN AZORES AND MADEIRA HAD RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE ONE TO WHICH HE BELONGS AND BRING PRESSURE ON PRESENT GOP TO REVERSE ITS EXTREMIST POLICY. PROFESSED GOAL OF ORGANIZATION IS INDEPENDENCE BUT REAL GOAL, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, WAS MERELY TO PUT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON GOP. EMBOFF TOLD PORTUGUESE THAT USG HAD NORMAL RELATIONS WITH GOP AND COULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS.

2. MFA DIRECTOR FOR WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF JULY 14 THAT AZORES INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION HAD CONTACTED SPANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON REFUSED TO RECEIVE REPS OF ORGANIZATION BUT ALLOWED EMBOFF TO MEET WITH AZORES REP IN WASHINGTON RESTAURANT. MFA OFFICIAL DID NOT BELIEVE ANY INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN ALGARVE WOULD HAVE A CHANCE BUT WAS WELL AWARE
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THAT AZOREANS HAD NUMEROUS AND INFLUENTIAL GROUP IN U.S.

3. SPANISH PRESS HAS CONTAINED SEVERAL DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF RECENT DISTURBANCES IN PONTA DELGADA AND REPORTS ABOUT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATIONS IN U.S.

4. COMMENT: INASMUCH AS MFA OFFICIAL RAISED ISSUE WITH EMBOFF ABOUT AZORES, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MFA WAS SSEEKING SOME INDICATION OF U.S. VIEWS ABOUT SITUATION IN AZORES HAVING IN MIND THAT ANY CHANGE IN STATUS OF ISLANDS MIGHT AFFECT COURSE OF CURRENT US/SPANISH BILATERAL TALKS. EMBOFF TOLD HIM THAT U.S. POSITION WAS NEUTRAL AND WE HAD NO INTEREST IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN ISSUE INVOLVING INTEGRITY OF PORTUGAL.
STABLER

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